UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/814,091	03/21/2001	Charles W. Knouse	21756-011700	2979

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EXAMINER
DADA, BEEMNET W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2135	

DATE MAILED: 11/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/814,091	KNOUSE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Beemnet W. Dada	2135

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _09 August 2005_.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-52 and 56-63_ is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) _1-52 and 56-63_ is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   The request filed on August 09, 2005 for a request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 based on parent Application 09/814,091 is acceptable and an RCE has been established. New claims 64-67 have been added. Claims 1-52 and 56-67 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments filed August 09, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that neither Gupta et al. US Patent 6,226,752 B1 nor Olden US Patent 6,460,141 B1 teach receiving a request from an application without a web agent front end. Examiner disagrees.

3.   Examiner would point out that Gupta teaches a client, an application server and a login server (see figure 2). In an alternative embodiment Gupta teaches a stand-alone client/server application environment [see column 11, lines 10-25]. Gupta teaches receiving user session state information for a first user at an access system interface (i.e., login server), said user session state information is from an application without a web agent front end (understood by the examiner as a stand alone or multiple application server, i.e., an application server not connected behind a web server or any other web agent) [column 11, lines 46-53 and column 12, lines 13-25] and receiving at the access system interface (i.e., login server) a request to authorize said first user to access a resource [column 12, lines 13-27], said request to authorize is from an application without a web agent front end [column 11, lines 10-20, and column 12, lines 13-27]. It is true that, Gupta teaches the requirment of web server to remove some functionalities of the application server as recited on col. 14, lines 27-60. However, description embodiments of Gupta are directed to a multiple application servers or a stand alone

client/server environement not connected behind a web server. Examiner asserts that the art

on record teach the the claimed limitations.

4.   Examiner would further point out receiving a session state information from an

application **without a web agent front end** as suppose to receiving a session state information

from an aplication **with a web agent front end** is a matter of design choice. **Elimination of an**

element and its function does not patentebly destinguish an invention from a prior art. See In

re Karlson, 153 USPQ 184 (CCPA 1963).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6.   Claims 56, 59 and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gupta

et al. US Patent 6,226,752 B1 (hereinafter Gupta).

7.   As per claim 56, Gupta teaches a method for providing access services, comprising the

steps of:

         authenticating a first user [column 12, lines 24-41];

         causing user session state information to be stored at a client for said first user [column

12, lines 50-56];

         authorizing said first user to access a first protected resource [column 12, lines 42-51];

receiving a request from an application without a web agent front end to allow said first

user to access a second protected resource, said step of receiving a request includes receiving

said user session state information from said application [column 11, lines 46-53];

authorizing said first user to access said second protected resource without requiring

said first user to re-submit authentication credentials, if said first user is authorized to access

said second protected resource [column 12, lines 41-66].

8.   As per claim 59, Gupta teaches the method as applied above. Furthermore, Gupta

teaches the method, wherein: said user session state information is a session token from a

cookie stored on a client for said first user, said session state information was created by an

access system [column 12, lines 46-61]; and said access system performs said step of

attempting to authorize [column 12, lines 54-61].

9.   As per claim 60, Gupta teaches the method as applied above. Furthermore, Gupta

teaches the method further comprising the steps of: determining whether said first resource is

protected [column 12, lines 25-42]; determining an authentication scheme for said first resource

[column 12, lines 25-42]; and determining whether said authentication scheme is satisfied based

on said user session state information [column 12, lines 25-42] and making available to said

application indication of whether said user session is protected and authentication scheme

[column 12, lines 14-42].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

11.   Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9-22, 26, 27, 31-36, 39-43, 46-50, 61 and 64-67 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta et al. US Patent 6,226,752 B1 (hereinafter

referred to as Gupta) in view of Olden US Patent 6,460,141 B1.

12.   As per claims 1 and 36, Gupta teaches a method for providing access services,

comprising the steps of:

        receiving user session state information for a first user at an access system interface

(i.e., login server), said user session state information is from an application without a web

agent front end (understood by the examiner as a stand alone or multiple application server, i.e.,

an application server not connected behind a web server or any other web agent) [column 11,

lines 46-53 and column 12, lines 13-25];

        receiving at the access system interface (i.e., login server) a request to authorize said

first user to access a resource [column 12, lines 13-27], said request to authorize is from an

application without a web agent front end [column 11, lines 10-20, and column 12, lines 13-27];

and

        authorizing said first user to access the resource without requiring said first user to re-

submit authentication credentials [column 12, lines 54-61].

        Gupta further teaches the system, wherein the login server provides routines for

communication and data transfer with application servers, [column 12, lines 13-17], further

providing user authentication with multiple set of methods [column 12, lines 26-36]. It is inherent

that these routines provide program interface, so that different programs (methods) can

communicate with each other or transfer data between each other. However, Gupta does not

explicitly teach application program interface for an access system.

Olden teaches a single sign on method for providing access services [see for example

column 23, lines 55-67], including receiving user session information for a user at an application

program interface for access system [column 24, line 63 – column 25, line 27]. Both Gupta and

Olden teach a method for providing access services. It would have been obvious to one having

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the teachings of Olden

within the system of Gupta in order to incorporate APIs into a single sign on system.

13.   As per claims 27, 50 and 61, Gupta teaches a method for providing access services by

an application without a web agent front end, comprising t he steps of:

receiving, at an application, an electronic request from a first user to access a first

resource, said step of receiving includes receiving information from a cookie [column 11, lines

46-67 and column 12, lines 1-6];

providing said information from said cookie to an access system interface (i.e., login

server) [column 12, lines 14-24]; and

accessing authorization services including, requesting said access system interface to

authorize said first user to access said first resource based on information from said request

from said first user and based on said information from said cookie [column 12, lines 14-61].

Gupta further teaches the system, wherein the login server provides routines for

communication and data transfer with application servers, [column 12, lines 13-17], further

providing user authentication with multiple set of methods [column 12, lines 26-36]. It is inherent

that these routines provide program interface, so that different programs (methods) can

communicate with each other or transfer data between each other. However, Gupta does not explicitly teach application program interface for an access system.

Olden teaches a single sign on method for providing access services [see for example column 23, lines 55-67], including providing information from a cookie to an application program interface for access system [column 24, line 51 – column 25, line 27]. Both Gupta and Olden teach a method for providing access services. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the teachings of Olden within the system of Gupta in order to incorporate APIs into a single sign on system.

14.   As per claim 43, Gupta teaches an apparatus, comprising:

a communication interface [column 11, lines 25-37 and figures 1 and 2];

one or more storage devices [column 11, lines 25-37 and figures 1 and 2]; and

one or more processors in communication with said one or more storage devices and said communication interface [column 11, lines 25-37 and figures 1 and 2], said one or more processors programmed to perform a method comprising:

receiving user session state information for a first user at an access system interface (i.e., login server), said user session state information is from an application without a web agent front end (understood by the examiner as a stand alone or multiple application server, i.e., an application server not connected behind a web server or any other web agent) [column 11, lines 46-53 and column 12, lines 13-25];

receiving at the access system interface (i.e., login server) a request to authorize said first user to access a resource [column 12, lines 13-27], said request to authorize is from an application without a web agent front end [column 11, lines 10-20, and column 12, lines 13-27]; and

authorizing said first user to access the resource without requiring said first user to re-submit authentication credentials [column 12, lines 54-61].

Gupta further teaches the system, wherein the login server provides routines for communication and data transfer with application servers, [column 12, lines 13-17], further providing user authentication with multiple set of methods [column 12, lines 26-36]. It is inherent that these routines provide program interface, so that different programs (methods) can communicate with each other or transfer data between each other. However, Gupta does not explicitly teach application program interface for an access system.

Olden teaches a single sign on method for providing access services [see for example column 23, lines 55-67], including receiving user session information for a user at an application program interface for access system [column 24, line 63 – column 25, line 27]. Both Gupta and Olden teach a method for providing access services. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the teachings of Olden within the system of Gupta in order to incorporate APIs into a single sign on system.

15.   As per claim 2, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method, wherein said user session state information is a session token form a cookie stored on a client for said first user [column 11, line 67].

16.   As per claims 6, 39 and 46, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method, wherein: said user session state information is a session token from a cookie stored on a client for said first user, said session state information was created by an access system [column 12, lines 46-61]; and said access system performs said step of attempting to authorize [column 12, lines 54-61].

17.   As per claim 7, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied

above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method, wherein: said user session state information is

a session token from a cookie stored on a client for said first user, said user session state

information was created by an access system and provided to said application by said access

system (logon server redirects the browser back to application server, with session information

included with the redirection) [column 12, lines 42-60]; said application caused said session

token to be stored in said cookie and said access system performs said step of attempting to

authorize [column 12, lines 42-60].

18.   As per claim 9, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied

above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method, wherein said resource request information

includes: an identification of a resource type, an identification of a resource, and an identification

of an operation [column 11, lines 39-45].

19.   As per claim 10, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied

above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method, wherein said resource request information

includes: an identification of a resource type, an identification of a resource; an identification of

an operation, and query string information [column 11, 39-45 and column 14, lines 33-42].

20.   As per claim 11, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied

above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method, wherein said resource request information

includes: an identification of a resource type, an identification of a resource, an identification of

an operation, and post data information [column 11, 39-45 and column 14, lines 33-42].

21.   As per claim 12, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied

above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches standalone or multiple application servers [column 11, lines

10-25].

22.   As per claim 13, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied

above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method, wherein:

        said step of attempting to authorize is based on said user session state information and

said resource request information [column 11, lines 45-51 and column 12, lines 14-24].

23.   As per claim 14, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied

above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method further comprising the steps of: creating a

resource request object, said resource request object represents a request to access said first

resource (sending a request to access a resource [column 11, lines 46-51]; and creating a user

session object, said user session object represents said first user after said first user has been

authenticated [column 12, lines 42-61].

24.   As per claims 15, 34, 40, 41, 47, 48 and 64-67, the combination of Gupta and Olden

teaches the method as applied above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method further

comprising the steps of: determining whether said first resource is protected [column 12, lines

25-42]; determining an authentication scheme for said first resource [column 12, lines 25-42];

and determining whether said authentication scheme is satisfied based on said user session

state information [column 12, lines 25-42] and making available to said application indication of

whether said user session is protected and authentication scheme [column 12, lines 14-42].

25.   As per claim 16, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied

above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method further comprising the steps of:

        making available to said application an indication of whether said first resource is

protected [column 12, lines 25-42]; and making available to said application an indication of

said authentication scheme [column 12, lines 25-42].

26.   As per claim 17, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied

above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method further comprising the steps of:

        determining one or more authentication actions for said first resource [column 12, lines

25-42].

27.   As per claim 18, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied

above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method further comprising the steps of:

        making available to said application an indication of said one or more authentication

actions for said first resource [column 12, lines 25-42].

28.   As per claim 19, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied

above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method further comprising the steps of:

        performing at least one of said authentication actions for said first resource [column 12,

lines 25-42].

29.   As per claim 20, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied

above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method further comprising the steps of:

Determining one or more authorization actions for said first resource [column 12-, lines

25-42].

30.   As per claim 21, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied

above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method further comprising the steps of:

        making available to said application an indication of said one or more authorization

actions for said first resource [column 12, lines 25-42].

31.   As per claim 22, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied

above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method further comprising the step of:

        performing at least one of said authorization actions for said first resource [column 12,

lines 25-42].

32.   As per claims 26, 35, 42 and 49, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the

method as applied above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method further comprising the step

of:

        allowing said first user to access said first resource if said first user is authorized to

access said first resource [column 12, lines 42-53].

33.   As per claim 31, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied

above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method further comprising the steps of:

        Requesting data from said information form said cookie, said request being made to said

access system interface [column 12, lines 12-23], receiving said data from said access system

interface [column 12, lines 41-61] and using said data for an access system service [column 12,

lines 41-61].

34.   As per claim 32, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied

above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method wherein, the cookie was originally provided by

a first web agent (a client browser) [column 11, lines 45-50].

35.   As per claim 33, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied

above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method wherein, the cookie was originally provided by

an access system interface [column 12, lines 54-61].

36.   Claims 3-5, 8, 28-30, 37, 38, 44, 45, 51, 52 and 62-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta (US Patent 6,226,752 B1) in view of Olden US Patent

6,460,141 as applied above and further in view of Wood et al. (hereinafter refereed to as Wood)

(US Patent No. 6,668,322 B1).

37.   As per claim 3, 28, 37, 44, 51 and 62-63, Gupta teaches the method as applied above.

Furthermore, Gupta teaches said user session state information is from a cookie stored on a

client for said first user [column 12, lines 50-62]. Gupta also suggests using encryption method

to transfer information between access server, application server and client, including

encrypting session information [column 14, lines 12-26]. Gupta does not clearly teach said user

information is encrypted and decrypting said user session information. However, Wood teaches

a method of providing access services, wherein user session information is encrypted and

decrypting user session state information [column 7, lines 32-63]. Therefore it would have been

obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to encrypt and

decrypt user session information as per teachings of Wood and employ it within the combination

of Gupta and Olden, in order to utilize secure transfer of information between access sever,

application server and client and protect sensitive information stored in session token (cookie).

38.   As per claims 4, 29, 38, 45 and 52 the combination of Gupta, Olden and Wood teaches

the method as applied above. Furthermore, Wood teaches decrypting encrypted session

information at an access server, wherein only the access server possessing a key needed for

decryption [column 7, lines 32-63].

39.   As per claims 5 and 30 and the combination of Gupta, Olden and Wood teaches the

method as applied above. Furthermore, Wood teaches session information includes identity of

the user [column 8, lines 9-25].

40.   As per claim 8, the combination of Gupta and Olden teaches the method as applied

above. Furthermore, Gupta teaches the method, wherein session information includes user

identity and time period [column 11, lines 59-66]. Gupta does not explicitly teach session

information includes an authentication level for a user. However, Wood teaches session

information that includes authentication level for a user [column 8, lines 9-13 and column 2,

lines 35-42]. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to include authentication level for a user into a session information

as per teachings of Wood and employ it within the combination of Gupta and Olden, in order to

allow clients with different level of authentication level and further increase security of protected

information.

41.   Claims 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta

(US Patent No. 6,226,752 B1) in view of Olden US Patent 6,460,141 as applied above and

further in view of Wenig et al (hereinafter referred to as Wenig) US Patent 6,286,098 B1.

42.   As per claim 23, Gupta teaches a method for providing access services as applied

above. Gupta does not explicitly teach determining one or more audit rules for a resource.

However Wenig teaches determining one or more audit rules for a resource [column 1, lines 55-

67 and column 10, lines 7-34]. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill

in the art at the time the invention was made to determine on or more audit rules fro a resource

as per teachings of Wenig and employ it within the combination of Gupta and Olden in order to

verify occurred events during a particular user session within a client and server applications.

43.   As per claims 24 and 25, the combination of Gupta, Olden and Wenig teach the method

as applied above. Furthermore, Wenig teaches making available to an application an indication

of one or more audit rules for a resource and performing at least one of said audit rules for said

resource [column 10, lines 7-34].

44.   Claims 57 and 58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Gupta (US Patent No. 6,226,752 B1) in view of Wood et al. (hereinafter referred to as Wood)

(US Patent No. 6,668,322 B1).

45.   As per claim 57, Gupta teaches the method as applied above. Furthermore, Gupta

teaches said user session state information is from a cookie stored on a client for said first user

[column 12, lines 50-62]. Gupta also suggests using encryption method to transfer information between access server, application server and client, including encrypting session information [column 14, lines 12-26]. Gupta does not clearly teach said user information is encrypted and decrypting said user session information. However, Wood teaches a method of providing access services, wherein user session information is encrypted and decrypting user session state information [column 7, lines 32-63]. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to encrypt and decrypt user session information as per teachings of Wood and employ it within the system of Gupta, in order to utilize secure transfer of information between access sever, application server and client and protect sensitive information stored in session token (cookie).

46.   As per claim 58, the combination of Gupta and Wood teaches the method as applied above. Furthermore, Wood teaches decrypting encrypted session information at an access server, wherein only the access server possessing a key needed for decryption [column 7, lines 32-63].

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beemnet W. Dada whose telephone number is (571) 272-3847. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (9:00 am - 5:30 pm).
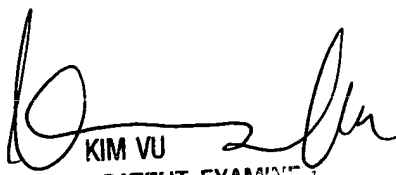
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y. Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private

PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Beemnet Dada

October 27, 2005

KIM VU

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100